

**Borough of Carlisle
Truth & Reconciliation Commission
August 30, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

Members present: Emily Kelahan (co-chair), TaWanda Hunter-Stallworth (co-chair), Raff Donelson, Tristan Milazzo, Andrew Razanauskas, Dorene Wilbur, and Kendall Isaac.

Also present: Deputy Mayor Shultz and Nicole Meals

Ms. Hunter-Stallworth called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Minutes from the July 19 meeting were approved. Motion by Mr. Isaac, second by Mr. Razanauskas.

Minutes from the August 9 meeting were approved with correction to the spelling of a last name and correction to the composition of the budget working group. Motion by Mr. Razanauskas, second by Ms. Kelahan.

Topics that were discussed:

✓ Working Groups

Ms. Kelahan, Mr. Isaac, and Mr. Razanauskas met to discuss how the committee should create and compose groups to further discuss issues concerning the TRC. It was proposed that the size of working groups be limited to 4 people with commissioners self-selecting if they would like to participate in each group. Two proposed groups for initial creation are:

1. Research Working Group
2. Community Engagement

Ms. Hunter-Stallworth questioned if the committees would be limited to only members or if community involvement would be warranted. All felt that community involvement would be valuable to the working group formation.

Motion by Ms. Wilbur, second by Mr. Donelson for the formation of these working groups.

TRC members will decide which committees they would like to participate in and communicate that to Ms. Hunter-Stallworth and Ms. Kelahan.

✓ Budget Request

Ms. Milazzo, Mr. Donelson, and Ms. Hunter-Stallworth met to discuss the budget request that the TRC will be making to the Borough of Carlisle for consideration. Ms. Hunter-Stallworth proposed an initial request of \$30,000 be made for inclusion in the 2022 budget. This request is to cover expenses for: data analysis, research beyond a comparative analysis, and approximately three speakers in 2022. This request must be made prior to the next council meeting which is September 9, 2021. Deputy Mayor Shultz will provide this information to Borough Staff and Council.

All approved this request.

✓ September 30, Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Ms. Kelahan read a proposal from Victoria Opilo to proclaim September 30th Orange Shirt Day in the Borough of Carlisle in support of indigenous people. Orange Shirt Day, also known as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, is a Canadian holiday. It was created as an observance in 2013, and is designed to educate people and promote awareness in Canada about the Indian residential school system and the impact it has had on Indigenous communities for over a century. It is held annually on September 30 in Canadian communities, where people are encouraged to wear an orange shirt.

Jason Turner, 165 East High Street, discussed how the Canadian Schools based their school system after the existing Carlisle Indian School. He supports recognizing September 30th as Orange Shirt day so we do not repeat past wrongs.

The TRC members had many questions and Ms. Kelahan proposed the TRC develops an equity and inclusion calendar to highlight all events on the Borough website. This may be a topic for the Community Engagement working group to research and report back to the TRC.

All felt the need to research this topic more. Deputy Mayor Shultz informed the TRC that for Council to make a resolution it would need to be on the Council Agenda on September 9, but the Mayor may make a proclamation at any time.

✓ Grant Opportunity

Mr. Isaac reported that he had recently learned of the Mellon Foundation Monuments Project. This project provides grants for the preservation of history that might not otherwise be told. Mr. Donelson proposed that the TRC, Borough Staff, and the Cumberland County Historical Society could partner and research if this is a grant that should be pursued by one or all.

The information will be sent out to Borough Staff and to the Cumberland County Historical Society to further research.

Ms. Hunter- Stallworth invited public comments.

There were no public comments.

The next Truth and Reconciliation Commission meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6:00 pm in Borough Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Meals

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